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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,336	01/23/2004	Miwa Ito	60188-760	4944

7590 04/28/2005
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Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LONG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2816

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

* 574

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/762,336		ITO ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Long Nguyen		2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/7/05 + 1/23/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of specie A (Figure 2) in the reply filed on 4/7/05 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Note that applicant indicates that claims 1-3 readable on Figure 2.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because Figures 13-17 are not designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- or --Related Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 7, the recitation "related art" recited on lines 14 and 16 is objected to because the meaning for "related art" is not clear (i.e., are Figures 13 and 14 be prior art or not?). Clarification and/or appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walden (USP 5,896,044).

With respect to claims 1-3, Figure 1 of the Walden reference discloses a level shifter circuit, which includes: an input terminal (102) to which an input signal (A) having a first amplitude voltage corresponding to a potential different between a first power voltage (VDDin) and a given voltage (VSS) is input; a level shifting unit (104, 106-108, 110, 112); an output terminal (OUT1) to which an output signal (Z) having a second amplitude corresponding to potential different between a second power voltage (VDDout) and the given voltage (VSS) is output; and an automatic delay adjusting circuit (111) comprising an N-type transistor (111) connected between the second power supply voltage (VDDout) and the output terminal (OUT1) and wherein the N-type transistor having its gate connected to the input terminal (IN). Note that all of the functional limitations “for automatic correcting balance ... power voltage” on the last 5 lines of claim 1 and “wherein said automatic delay adjusting circuit compensatively ... delay time” on lines 2-4 of claim 2 are met because the structure of the claims is fully met, i.e., because the structure of the level shifter unit (104, 106-108, 110, 112) and the automatic delay adjusting circuit (111) of the Walden reference is substantially similar to the level shifter unit (L, Figure 2) and the delay adjusting circuit (10A, Figure 2), respectively, of applicant’s invention (Figure 2),

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so the structure of the level shifter circuit (level shifter unit (104, 106-108, 110, 112) and automatic delay adjusting circuit (111) in Figure 1 of Walden) capable of performing such functions as recited in claims 1 and 2, see MPEP 2112.01, In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977).

Conclusion

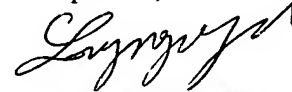
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directly to Examiner Long Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1753. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00am to 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached at (571) 272-1740. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 25, 2005



LONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER